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SOURCE Neue Zuercher Zeitung, No 277, 1950.

#### FUNCTIONS OF EAST GERMAN POLICE FORCE

The following is one of a series of articles on the Communist regime of the German Democratic Republic, reported by a special correspondent of the Neue Zuercher Zeitung.

While the police force is formally under the supervision of Minister of the Interior Karl Steinhoff, the latter's authority over it is extremely limited. All personnel matters are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry's Secretary, Hans Warnke, an "old" Communist, while the police functions are under the direct administration of Deputy Minister-President Ulbricht.

The police force is administered by three so-called Main Administrations. The Main Administration of the People's Police is headed by Dr Kurt Fischer and exercises all regular police functions as well as those of the border police. This Administration has at its disposal over 30,000 military police and 13,000 members of the independently trained border police.

The Main Administration for Training is under the direction of Wilhelm Zaissler, the "General Gomez" of Spanish Civil War fame. It is in charge of the so-called alert squads, which are quartered in barracks, i.e., the regular police force. These troops consist of 50,000 men who have been organized into units similar to those of the Soviet Army. Each of these units is to be brought up to division strength. Apparently these squads, or "Bereitschaften," constitute the preliminary step toward a People's Army. They are primarily equipped with weapons left over from the war, although they are also trained in the use of Soviet T-34 tanks. According to reliable sources, reports to the contrary notwithstanding, they have no aircraft. They are trained by German instructors, assisted at top level by Russian "consultants" in German uniform. Intensive political training is stressed.

The Main Administration for the Protection of the People's Property apparently is in charge of the political police, formerly known as "K 5", and now operating under the designation "State Security Service" (Staatssicherheitsdienst). This Administration is headed by Erich Mielke, who, together with one Erich Ziemer,

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is said to have murdered police officials Anlauf and Lenk on 9 August 1931. Mielke is wanted for murder in West Berlin. The significance of the position he occupies is seen by the fact that Mielke was the only police official invited to a banquet in honor of Vyshinskiy.

Mielke's Main Administration works closely with the Central Control Commission, which is headed by Fritz Lange. It is the function of this intricate control organ to supervise the economic operations of all private and people-owned enterprises and their owners, directors, and employees, as well as all officials of the communities, laender, and the republic. The commission operates an extensive espionage system, of which the heads of the various party organizations, leaders of factory trade-union organizations, foremen of the councils of ten, etc., form a part. They are required to exercise strict control in all enterprises and must assure the prevention of: (1) thefts, (2) waste of materials, and (3) the conclusion of objectionable agreements. The Central Control Commission also exercises political control functions which extend even to the members of the Socialist Unity Party (SED), although the latter has its own Central Party Control Commission.

All organizations commissioned with the execution of police and control functions are staffed with "old" Communists. They have been charged, among other things, with stamping out the last vestiges of political resistance and with the elimination of private ownership. They exercise nearly 100-percent control over the daily life of every individual, and even the ministers are spied upon. At present the police and the Control Commission are the staunchest pillars of the Communist regime. They work in close collaboration with the Soviet police, which is still in operation.

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